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hundred and thirty were Catholics. These paid 100*l.* per annum to their own priest, and thirteen-fourteenths of another 100*l.* per annum to the Protestant rector. In many other parishes in Ireland, the proportion of Catholic inhabitants, it is presumed, bears a proportion equally great. Is not this a grievance in many cases, bearing peculiarly hard on the poorer classes of our population.

On the subject of the hereditary claim of tithes, the clergy have no right to immutability. No one is born a bishop or a rector. In this point of view the usufructuary claimants of tithe stand on grounds essentially different from the proprietors of hereditary property.

In the general demand for investigation into the late transactions in Portugal, we observe, not without some degree of self-debasement, the total silence of this country. Yet Irish soldiers have fought and bled and conquered at Vimiera. Ireland has had its share of the triumph and cannot but participate in the disgrace; the character also of an Irish officer is involved; an officer holding a high official station in his native country; if unjustly involved in the disgrace of others, ought we not to demand an inquiry for the public declaration of his innocence; if justly implicated, ought we not to call aloud for an inquiry which would satisfy the injured feelings of a nation, whose darling birth-right is unimpeached valour, and a high-wrought sense of inborn honour. Yet Ireland is silent....neither a feeling of native dignity, nor the example of a sister kingdom has roused her from a state of torpid apathy.

.....Alas! poor country,
Almost afraid to know itself!.....

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

Decree of the King of Holland, revoking the permission to export certain commodities.
17th, Oct. 1808.

"I. All exportation is suspended until further orders.

"II. The superintendence of the coast shall be divided into three districts: 1. From the Helder to the island of Walche-

ren, shall be commanded by General Du-mouceau. 2. From the Helder to Harlingen by Admiral De Winter. 3. From Harlingen to the Jahde, by General Castanet.

"III. The commanding Generals shall be personally responsible for the execution of the existing measures relating to the *total shutting* of the ports of the kingdom, the communication with the enemy, as well as for all those we may hereafter order. There shall be a daily report made by them to the minister, or *immediately* to the King; and they are required to give an account of the negligence or disinclination of the civil and military agents.

"IV. All fishing boats shall be compelled to return to the place from whence they sailed, and they shall not be admitted any where else, even under the pretence that they have received damage. If they shall be found to have any proofs of having communicated with the enemy on board, such as strangers not belonging to their crews; the least package of merchandize of any kind; letters or newspapers, they shall become the property of the civil or military authorities who assist in seizing them, as soon as the legality of the seizure shall have been determined by the Judge, who must pronounce a definitive sentence in the course of fifteen days at farthest.

"V. All merchant vessels, whether bearing the Dutch or a foreign flag, which shall attempt to enter any of the harbours or roads in the above-mentioned districts, shall be warned off by a boat, and apprized that they will be fired upon if they attempt to enter.

The President Jefferson's Answer to the Dissent of the Republicans from the Proceedings of the Town of Boston, relative to the Embargo.

"I have duly received the address of that portion of the citizens of Boston who have declared their approbation of the present suspension of our commerce, and their dissent from the representation of those of the same place, who wished its removal. A division of sentiment was not unexpected: on no question can a perfect unanimity be hoped, or certainly it would have been on that between war and embargo, the only alternatives presented to our choice; for the general capture of our vessels would have been war upon one side, which reason and interest would rebel by war and reprisal on our part.

"Of the several interests, comprising those of the United States, that of manufactures would of course prefer to war a state of non-intercourse so favourable to their rapid growth and prosperity.

"Agriculture, although sensibly feeling the loss of market for its produce, would find many aggravations in a state of war.

"Commerce and navigation, or that portion which is foreign, in the inactivity to which they are reduced by the present state of things, certainly experience their full share in the general inconvenience; but whether war would be to them a preferable alternative, is a question that patriotism would never hastily propose. It is to be regretted, however, that overlooking the real sources of sufferings, the British and French edicts, which constitute the actual blockade of our foreign commerce and navigation, they have with too little reflection imputed them to laws which have preserved them from greater, and have saved for our own use, our vessels, property, and seamen, instead of adding them to the strength of those with whom we might eventually have to contend.

"The embargo, giving time to the Belligerent Powers to revise their unjust proceedings, and to listen to the dictates of justice or interest and reputation, which equally urge the correction of their wrongs, has availed our country of this only honourable expedient of avoiding war, and should a repeal of these edicts supersede the cause for it, our commercial brethren will become sensible, that it has consulted their interest, however against their own will. It will be unfortunate for their country, if, in the mean time, these their expressions of impatience should have the effect of prolonging the very sufferings which have produced them, by exciting a fallacious hope that we may, under any pressure, relinquish our equal rights of navigating the ocean, go to such ports as reason may prescribe, and there pay the tributary exactions they may impose; and an abandonment of national independence and essential rights revolting to every manly sentiment. *While these edicts are in force, no American can ever consent to a return of peaceable intercourse with those who maintain them.*

"I am in the approach of the period when the feelings and the wisdom of the nation will be collected in their Representatives assembled together. To them are committed our rights, to them our wrongs are known, and they will pronounce the remedy they call for; and I hear with pleasure from all, as well those who approve as those who disapprove of the present measures, assurances of an implicit acquiescence in the annunciation of the general will. I beg leave, through you, to communicate this Answer to the Address,

on which your signature had the first place, and to add assurances of my respect.

(Signed) TH. JEFFERSON."

To Colonel Edward Proctor.

To Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America, the Petition of the Subscribers, Officers of Merchant Ships, belonging to the Port of Philadelphia.

"RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH—That, in consequence of the present Embargo-Laws the situation of your Petitioners is grievous and afflicting; that they have been engaged in the mercantile service since their infancy, without exceptions, and accustomed only to conduct ships or vessels across the ocean—that from the operation of the present restrictive laws, they find themselves cut off from their usual employment, and of course the means of subsistence are gone.

"Your Petitioners are well acquainted with the duties of conducting ships from port to port—well versed in naval tactics, but unable to handle the harrow or plough.

"Your Petitioners have for a long time borne with patience the privations incident to those restrictive laws, without murmur or complaint—but, when imperious necessity compels them to disclose the cause of their grievances, they humbly suppose they have a right so to do in a decent and respectful manner.

"Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Excellency will take their case into consideration, and adopt such measures as will relieve the wants of your Petitioners; or if there are vacancies in the navy, to give your Petitioners, or some of them, an opportunity of serving therein, as they think themselves capable of performing services of that nature.

"They, however, submit their whole cause to your consideration, hoping your Excellency will adopt such measures as wisdom and justice may point out, and, as in duty bound, will pray, &c.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1808."

PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

"SIR—In answer to the petition which you delivered me from the officers of merchant vessels belonging to Philadelphia, I must premise my sincere regret at the sacrifices which our fellow-citizens in general, and the Petitioners in particular, have been obliged to meet, by the circumstances of the times. We live in an age of affliction, to which the history of nations presents no parallel—we have for years been looking on Europe covered with blood and violence, and seen rapine spreading itself over the ocean. On this element it has reached us,